

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) Process for removing contaminants from contaminated soil with the aid of a stripping gas and with a biologically active layer being present in or on the soil, wherein the which process comprises: the following steps:
 - a) creating in the soil a medium whose resistance is lower than the resistance of the surrounding soil,
 - b) injecting the stripping gas in the soil at the depth of and/or beneath the contaminants,
 - (c) volatilising the contaminants with the stripping gas, and
 - (d) allowing wherupon the stripping gas with the contaminants substantially to flow largely flows to the biologically active layer via the medium whose resistance is lower than that of the surrounding soil.
2. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1, characterized in that wherein the medium whose resistance is lower than the resistance of the surrounding soil is created between an area to be remediated and a biologically active layer not directly bordering thereon.
3. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1, characterized in that wherein the medium whose resistance is lower than the resistance of the surrounding soil is created by targeted drying of certain areas in the soil.
4. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1, characterized in that wherein the stripping gas is injected at a pressure of at least 1.3 bar.
5. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1, characterized in that wherein the stripping gas is injected at a pressure of between 2 and 8 bar.

6. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1, characterized in that wherein the medium whose resistance is lower than the resistance of the surrounding soil is created by installing at least one hollow pipe between the biologically active layer and the contaminated soil.
7. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1, characterized in that wherein the medium whose resistance is lower than the resistance of the surrounding soil consists of a space which may or may not be filled with a material that presents a lower resistance to the stripping gas than the surrounding soil.
8. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1, characterized in that wherein the medium whose resistance is lower than the resistance of the surrounding soil comprises biologically active material and/or activated carbon.
9. (new) A process for removing contaminants from contaminated soil which comprises:
 - (a) providing at least one biologically active region in the soil and an impermeable layer on ground level of the soil adjacent to the at least one biologically active region;
 - (c) creating a guiding layer in the soil under the impermeable layer which extends to the biologically active layer by providing a medium in the guiding layer whose resistance is lower than the resistance of the surrounding soil;
 - (d) injecting a stripping gas into the soil at least at a depth of the contaminants therein;
 - (c) volatilising the contaminants with the stripping gas; and
 - (d) allowing the stripping gas with the volatilised contaminants therein substantially to flow to the biologically active layer via the guiding layer under the impermeable layer.

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10. (new) The process of claim 9, wherein the medium in the guiding layer comprises sand and/or gravel.
11. (new) The process of claim 9, wherein the medium in the guiding layer comprises a dried region of the soil.
12. (new) The process of any one of claims 9-11, wherein the guiding layer comprises a biologically active material.